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January 31, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
44.5 12th Street, SW, CY-B402  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**Re: WC Docket No. 02-384 Reply Comments**  
**Application by Verizon Corporation for Authorization Under Section 271 of**  
**the Communications Act to Provide In-Region, InterLATA Service in the**  
**District of Columbia, West Virginia and Maryland**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), I am pleased to submit these comments in support of Verizon's application requesting Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authorization to provide long-distance services in West Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. NADO is a national public interest group founded in 1967 that serves as the leading advocate for a regional approach to economic and community development in America's rural communities and small cities.

Verizon's advanced technologies could expand the reach of businesses and offer new opportunities for residents currently isolated from the information age. Rural communities in America rely on services such as toll and long-distance calls to communicate with family, essential services and businesses in larger metropolitan areas. Too often, rural communities have access to only a single long-distance provider. Reasonably priced, high-quality telecommunications services are essential for the sustainable growth of rural America.

NADO believes that Verizon's entry into the long distance market in West Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. will encourage the deployment of advanced telecommunications capabilities that can enhance economic and community development. Verizon can offer another choice and bring rates down while improving the quality of service. NADO urges the FCC to grant its approval to Verizon's application.

Sincerely yours,

Alicann Wohlbruck  
Executive Director

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